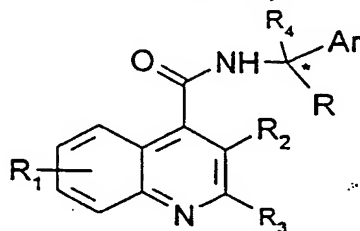


Claims:

1. A compound, or a solvate or a salt thereof, of formula (I):



(I)

wherein, Ar is an optionally substituted aryl or a C₅₋₇ cycloalkdienyl group, or a C₅₋₇ cycloalkyl group or an optionally substituted single or fused ring aromatic heterocyclic group,;

R is C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkylalkyl, optionally substituted phenyl or phenyl C₁₋₆ alkyl, an optionally substituted five-membered heteroaromatic ring comprising up to four heteroatoms selected from O and N, hydroxy C₁₋₆ alkyl, amino C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminoalkyl, di C₁₋₆ alkylaminoalkyl, C₁₋₆ acylaminoalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxyalkyl, C₁₋₆ alkylcarbonyl, carboxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl C₁₋₆ alkyl, aminocarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl, di C₁₋₆ alkylaminocarbonyl, halogeno C₁₋₆ alkyl; or R is a group -(CH₂)_p- wherein p is 2 or 3 which group forms a ring with a carbon atom of Ar;

R₁ represents hydrogen or up to four optional substituents selected from the list consisting of: C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkenyl, aryl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, carboxy, carboxamido, sulphonamido, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, trifluoromethyl, acyloxy, phthalimido, amino or mono- and di-C₁₋₆ alkylamino;

R₂ represents a moiety -(CH₂)_n-NY₁Y₂ wherein n is an integer in the range of from 1 to 9, Y₁ and Y₂ are independently selected from hydrogen; C₁₋₆-alkyl; C₁₋₆ alkyl substituted with hydroxy, C₁₋₆ alkylamino or bis (C₁₋₆ alkyl) amino; C₁₋₆-alkenyl; aryl or aryl-C₁₋₆-alkyl or Y₁ and Y₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached represent an optionally substituted N-linked single or fused ring heterocyclic group;

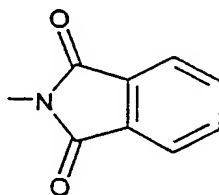
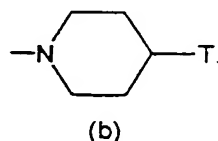
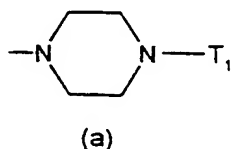
R₃ is branched or linear C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, C₄₋₇ cycloalkylalkyl, optionally substituted aryl, or an optionally substituted single or fused ring aromatic heterocyclic group; and

R₄ represents hydrogen or C₁₋₆ alkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar represents unsubstituted phenyl.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein R represents C₁₋₆ alkyl.
4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein R₁ represents hydrogen, C₁₋₆ alkoxy.
5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein R₂ is an N-linked single or fused heterocyclic groups, in which any single or fused ring is saturated or unsaturated and consists of 5- or 6- ring atoms, said ring atoms optionally comprising 1 or 2 additional heteroatoms selected from O or N and wherein one or two ring atoms are optionally substituted with one or two oxo groups or one or two of hydroxy, carboxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ hydroxyalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl, or a single or fused ring aromatic heterocyclic group, or the substituents on adjacent ring atoms form a carbocyclic ring; said aryl or aromatic heterocyclic groups being optionally substituted with one or two C₁₋₆ alkyl, alkoxy, hydroxy, halogen or halogenalkyl groups.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein R₂ is a moiety of formula (a), (b) or (c):

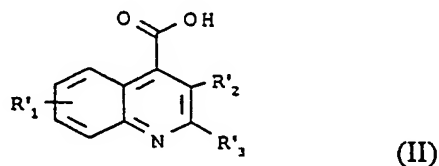


(c)

wherein T₁ represents hydroxy, carboxy, C₁₋₆ alkoxycarbonyl, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ hydroxyalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl or C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl.

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein R₂ is a moiety a moiety of formula (a).
8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein R₃ is a phenyl group.
9. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein R₄ is hydrogen.

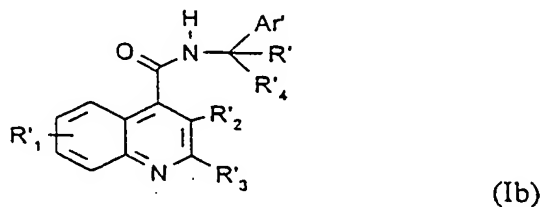
10. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein n is an integer 1, 2 or 3.
11. A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar is phenyl, R is ethyl, R_1 is hydrogen, R_3 is phenyl, R_4 is hydrogen and R_2 is a moiety $-(CH_2)_n-NY_1Y_2$ wherein n is 1, 2, 3 or 4 and NY_1Y_2 is:
- (i) a moiety of the above defined formula (a);
 - (ii) a moiety of the above defined formula (b); or
 - (iii) a moiety of the above defined formula (c).
12. A compound according to claim 1, being a compound of examples 1 to 43 herein; or a solvate or a salt thereof.
13. A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), or a salt thereof and/or a solvate thereof, which process comprises reacting a compound of formula (II) or an active derivative thereof:



wherein R'_1 , R'_2 and R'_3 are R_1 , R_2 and R_3 respectively as defined in relation to formula (I) or a group convertible to R_1 , R_2 and R_3 respectively; with a compound of formula (III):



wherein R' , R'_4 and Ar' are R, R_4 and Ar as defined for formula (I) or a group or atom convertible to R, R_4 and Ar respectively; to form a compound of formula (Ib):



wherein Ar', R', R'₁, R'₂, R'₃ and R'₄ are as defined above, and thereafter carrying out one or more of the following optional steps:

- (i) converting any one of Ar', R', R'₁, R'₂, R'₃ and R'₄ to Ar, R, R₁, R₂, R₃ or R₄ respectively as required, to obtain a compound of formula (I);
- (ii) converting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and
- (iii) preparing a salt of the compound of formula (I) and/or a solvate thereof.

14. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

15. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, for use as an active therapeutic substance.

16. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, for the treatment or prophylaxis of the Primary and Secondary Conditions.

17. The use of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of the Primary and Secondary Conditions.

18. A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of the Primary and Secondary Conditions in mammals, particularly humans, which comprises administering to the mammal in need of such treatment and/or prophylaxis an effective, non-toxic pharmaceutically acceptable amount of a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

19. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1, for use as a diagnostic tool for assessing the degree to which neurokinin-3 and neurokinin-2 receptor activity (normal, overactivity or underactivity) is implicated in a patient's symptoms.